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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8020

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT AUG 14-20, 1974

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART I -- SUMMARY.

1. IN MR-1 THE 309 VIOLATIONS LAST WEEK SET ANOTHER RECORD HIGH FOR INCIDENTS IN THE REGION FOR 1974. LIGHT ACTIVITY NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS WAS MARKED BY ONE AFB AND SEVERAL GROUND PROBES OF RF POSITIONS IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE. THE DA NANG-HUE RAILROAD WAS MINED FOUR TIMES. SOUTH OF THE PASS, QUANG NAM PROVINCE AGAIN EXPERIENCED THE MOST ATTACKS. SOUTH OF DUC DUC, INCIDENTS WERE MOSTLY ABFS. THE ATTEMPT BY ELEMENTS OF THE 54TH INFANTRY REGIMENT TO REOCCUPY POSITIONS LOST BY THE TWELFTH RANGER GROUP FAILED; DURING THE ATTEMPT THEY EXPERIENCED SEVERAL ABFS AND GROUND ATTACKS. THERE WERE NUMEROUS SMALL ATTACKS IN QUE SON DISTRICT, AND THE NEWLY ARRIVED FIRST AIRBORNE BRIGADE SAW FREQUENT ENEMY CONTACT. QUANG NGAI AND DA NANG AIR BASES WERE ROCKETED; ROCKETS FALLING OUTSIDE DA NANG AIR BASE KILLED FIVE CIVILIANS AND WOUNDED THIRTEEN. IN EASTERN DA NANG A POLICE POST AND COMMUNITY HOUSE WERE DAMAGED BY EXPLOSION, THE FIRST SUCH INCIDENT IN DA NANG SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE, MINH LONG DISTRICT TOWN FELL, THE SECOND DISTRICT TOWN TO BE LOST IN MR-1. THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING WAS HEAVIER IN MR-2 THIS WEEK, THOUGH CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES DROPPED OFF. IN BINH DINH, THE MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE, THE COMMUNISTS SCORED NO SIGNIFICANT GAINS. THE GVN RETAINS CONTROL OF THE NHONG PASS, AND QL 1 REMAINS OPEN. IN KONTUM PROVINCE, MANG BUK SUBSECTOR FINALLY FELL AFTER RECEIVING 1,000 ROUNDS OF MORTAR AND ARTILLERY OVER THE WEEK-END, AND 800 MORE IN CONJUNCTION WITH GROUND ASSAULTS SINCE. ACTIVITY DROPPED OFF IN PLEIKU PROVINCE, AND PLEI ME CAMP CONTINUES TO HOLD. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY INCREASED IN PHU YEN AFTER A TWO-WEEK LULL. THE ACTIVITY WAS MARKED BY HARASSMENT OF QL-1, MORTAR ATTACKS ON SUBSECTOR HQ, AND DESTRUCTION OF VILLAGE AND HAMLET OFFICES. THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN MR-3 REACHED THE SECOND HIGHEST TOTAL OF THE YEAR. CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES ROSE SHARPLY. ELEMENTS OF THE FIFTH NVA DIVISION, SUPPORTED BY ARMOR AND ARTILLERY CROSSED INTO TAY NINH PROVINCE FROM CAMBODIA AND STRUCK THREE GVN OUTPOSTS. CONFIDENTIAL

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THE THREE, PHUOC TAN, LUU BUU LAM, AND BEN SOI, HAVE UNDERGONE CONSTANT ABFS, AND PHUOC TAN AND LUU BUU LAM HAVE RECEIVED GROUND ATTACKS AS WELL. A LATE REPORT INDICATES THAT PHUOC TAN, AFTER A DOGGED DEFENSE WHICH AT ONE POINT SAW THE COMPANY COMMANDER CALLING IN ARTILLERY ON HIS OWN POSITION TO REPEL AN ATTACK, HAS FINALLY FALLEN. IN SOUTHERN PHU KHUONG DISTRICT LOCAL RF FORCES RECAPTURED FOUR HAMLETS CAPTURED BY GUERRILLAS THE PREVIOUS DAY. RVNAF FORCES IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE SUCCESSFULLY REPULSED AN

ATTACK ON THE RF PHU THU OUTPOST BY ELEMENTS OF THE 272D REGIMENT, KILLING 50 NVA, AND REPORTEDLY DESTROYING TWO PT 76 TANKS AND CAPTURING ONE. THE BIEN HOA AIR BASE AREA CONTINUED TO EXPERIENCE ROCKET ATTACKS. THE LATEST CASUALTIES INCLUDE ONE KILLED AND SEVENTEEN WOUNDED, INCLUDING ONE PATIENT KILLED AND SIX WOUNDED IN THE BIEN HOA MENTAL HOSPITAL. A SAPPER GROUP ATTACKED THE TPJMC SITE AT CU CHI IN HAU NGHIA DISTRICT (SEE PART II). IN THE DELTA, MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS UP SHARPLY FROM LAST WEEK, AS THE VC/NVA LAUNCHED A NEW MID-MONTH HIGH POINT. HOWEVER, THE INTENSITY OF FIGHTING REMAINED BELOW THAT OF LAST MONTH'S HIGH POINT. LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES INCREASED SHARPLY OVER LAST WEEK. IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE, ACTIVITY WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY ATTACKS ON LOCS; BOTH SNIPING AND MINING WERE EMPLOYED. HIGHWAY 4 WAS ESPECIALLY HARD-HIT. IN KIEN TUONG AND KIEN PHONG PROVINCES, CANAL OUTPOSTS WERE THE CENTERS OF ACTIVITY, AND THREE OF THE NINE OBS ALONG THE CUNG CANAL IN KIEN TUONG HAVE YET TO BE RETAKEN. IN KIEN PHONG, VC/NVA MAIN FORCE BATTALIONS AND TWO BATTALIONS OF THE Z-15 REGIMENT SEEM TO BE RENEWING EFFORTS TO EXPAND CONTROL IN BASE AREA 307. THERE WERE TWO ASSASSINATIONS IN VINH BINH PROVINCE. IN VINH LONG PROVINCE, A GROUND ATTACK ON MINH DUC DISTRICT TOWN, PRECEDED BY A MORTAR ATTACK, WAS REPULSED. NGAI TU VILLAGE HQ WAS REPORTED OVERRUN. IN PHONG DINH PROVINCE, TWO DISTRICT TOWNS WERE MORTARED, AND TWO SEPARATE ATTACKS ON OBS LEFT 33 PF MISSING. IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE, SIX VILLAGE HQS AND TWO DISTRICT TOWNS (HIEU LE AND KIEN AN) WERE SHELLED. ACTIVITY DOUBLED IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE, WHERE THE WORST INCIDENT WAS A SHELLING AND GROUND ATTACK ON A PSDF POSITION; FIVE PSDF DIED. THE ICCS HELD AN INCONCLUSIVE PLENARY SESSION ON AUGUST 15 ON THE SUBJECTS OF THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL AND THE POLISH REQUEST THAT THE COMMISSION ENDORSE ITS LETTER OF COMPLAINT ABOUT GVN INTERFERENCE WITH POLISH RECEPTION GUEST LISTS. PENDING CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE DELEGATIONS, THE NEXT PLENARY SESSION IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE HELD UNTIL THE LAST WEEK IN AUGUST.

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THE COMMUNIST BOYCOTT OF THE FPJMT/TPJMC CONTINUES, A SAPPER ATTACK ON THE TPJMC COMPOUND AT CU CHI, HAU NGHIA (P), RESULTED IN TWO PF KILLED, FOUR WOUNDED, AND SIX BUILDINGS DAMAGED. IN AN AUGUST 15 STATEMENT, THE "PRG" FOREIGN MINISTRY ATTACKED PRESIDENT FORD'S ASSURANCE OF CONTINUED SUPPORT OF VIET-NAM. USING THE SAME TIME-WORN PHRASING, THE COMMUNISTS COUNSELED THE US TO GET OUT OF VIET-NAM BY SCRUPULOUSLY OBSERVING THE PARIS AGREEMENTS AS THEY CLAIM TO.

PART II -- FPJMT, TPJMC, AND RELATED MATTERS

2. THE BOYCOTT OF THE FPJMT/TPJMC FORA BY THE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS CONTINUED INTO ITS NINTH WEEK. THE LIGHTLY DEFENDED TPJMC COMPOUND AT CU CHI, HAU NGHIA PROVINCE WAS ATTACKED BY SAPPERS AUGUST 10. OF THE SEVEN PF DEFENDERS, TWO WERE KILLED AND

FOUR WERE WOUNDED. SIX BUILDINGS WERE DAMAGED. IN A STATEMENT ISSUED AUGUST 15, THE "PRG" FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMENTED ON PRESIDENT FORD'S ASSURANCE OF CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE GVN. THE STATEMENT CHARACTERIZED FORD AS INTENDING TO "PURSUE THE CRIMINAL PATH...TO MAINTAIN US NEO-COLONIALISM IN SOUTH VIETNAM." ALLUDING TO THE "25,000 US MILITARY DISGUISED AS CIVILIANS" AND OVERALL US AID TO VIET-NAM, THE "PRG" BLASTED FORD'S STATEMENT AS A "BLATANT CHALLENGE TO THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE." THE COMMUNISTS ADVISED THAT THE WISEST WAY FOR THE US TO GET OUT OF VIET-NAM WOULD BE TO "SCRUPULOUSLY RESPECT AND STRICTLY IMPLEMENT" THE PARIS AGREEMENT, AS THEY OF COURSE CLAIM TO DO.

PART III -- COMMUNIST MEDIA COMMENT (NOTHING TO REPORT.)

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CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART IV - MR-1

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS THERE WERE 309 COMMUNIST CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS LAST WEEK, A RECORD NUMBER OF VIOLATIONS IN I CORPS IN 1974 AND THE FOURTH WEEK IN FIVE THAT A NEW HIGH HAS BEEN REACHED. MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUES TO BE CONCENTRATED SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS AND MORE THAN HALF OF THE CLASHES OCCURRED IN QUANG NAM PROVINCE. IT WAS IN QUANG NGAI, HOWEVER, THAT THE MOST NOTEWORTHY EVENT OCCURRED--THE LOSS OF THE DISTRICT SEAT OF MINH LONG TO ARTILLERY AND GROUND ATTACKS. VNAF FLEW 694 COMBAT SORTIES DURING THE WEEK. CASUALTY FIGURES WERE HIGH. GVN CASUALTIES: 133 KIA, 635 WIA. NVA/VC LOSSES: 317 KIA, 1 RETURNEE.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

THERE WAS LITTLE ACTIVITY IN QUANG TRI AND THUA THIEN. THERE WAS ONE ATTACK BY FIRE AND SEVERAL GROUND PROBES OF RF POSITIONS IN WESTERN QUANG TRI. IN THUA THIEN THERE WAS SOME FIGHTING, PRIMARILY CONCENTRATED AGAINST ELEMENTS OF THE 15TH RANGER GROUP, APPROXIMATELY 12 KILOMETERS WEST OF HUE. THE RAILROAD TO DA NANG WAS MINED FOUR TIMES.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

THE GREATEST NUMBER OF ATTACKS OCCURRED IN QUANG NAM. SOUTH OF DUC DUC THEY WERE MOSTLY ATTACKS BY FIRE. ON AUGUST 15 THE ENEMY FIRED OVER 3500 ROUNDS AND LAUNCHED GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST ELEMENTS OF THE 54TH INFANTRY REGIMENT WHICH WAS UNSUCCESSFULLY

ATTEMPTING TO REOCCUPY POSITIONS LOST BY THE 12TH RANGER GROUP THE PREVIOUS WEEK. IN QUE SON DISTRICT THERE WERE NUMEROUS SMALL ATTACKS AGAINST GVN FORCES; AND THE 1ST AIRBORNE BRIGADE, NEWLY TRANSFERRED TO DAI LOC DISTRICT FROM HUE, WAS IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY.

4. DA NANG AIRBASE WAS ROCKETED ON AUGUST 17. NO ONE WAS HURT
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WITHIN THE BASE, BUT ROCKETS FALLING OUTSIDE KILLED 5 CIVILIANS AND WOUNDED 13. DURING THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 19-20 A COMMUNITY HOUSE AND A POLICE POST WERE BOTH DAMAGED BY EXPLOSION IN THE EASTERN SECTION OF THE CITY. THESE ARE THE FIRST SUCH INCIDENTS IN DA NANG SINCE THE CEASEFIRE.

5. THERE WAS LITTLE MILITARY ACTIVITY IN QUANG TIN DURING THE WEEK. A COMMUNIST SAPPER WAS KILLED INSIDE THE CHU LAI BASE; PRESUMABLY HE MEANT TO SET CHARGES IN THE POL STORAGE AREA. A BRIDGE ON QL-1 WAS SLIGHTLY DAMAGED, BUT TRAFFIC HAS BEEN RESTORED.

6. IN QUANG NGAI COMMUNIST FORCES SUPPORTED BY HEAVY ARTILLERY ATTACKED MINH LONG DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS ON AUGUST 17. THREE HOURS LATER RADIO CONTACT WAS BROKEN. OF APPROXIMATELY 700 MILITARY MEN IN MINH LONG DISTRICT, 238 HAD RETURNED TO GVN POSITIONS BY THE MORNING OF AUGUST 20. THE LOSS OF THIS MOUNTAIN DISTRICT WITH AN ESTIMATED POPULATION OF 10,000 DOES NOT SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE MILITARY SITUATION IN I CORPS, BUT IT IS THE SECOND DISTRICT SEAT THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE TAKEN IN MR-1 IN THEIR CURRENT SUMMER-FALL CAMPAIGN. ELSEWHERE IN QUANG NGAI, ENEMY GUNNERS ATTACKED GVN POSITIONS IN NGHIA HANH DISTRICT. FIGHTING CONTINUED IN EASTERN SON TINH DISTRICT. QUANG NGAI AIRFIELD RECEIVED SEVERAL ROCKETS; DUC PHO AND SON TINH WERE MORTARED.

7. ICCS:

NO OBSERVATIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN ICCS REGION I, BUT A FORMER ARVN ENLISTED MAN APPROACHED THE HUNGARIAN AND POLISH DELEGATIONS AT THE QUANG TRI TEAM SITE TO ASK FOR TRANSPORTATION ACROSS THE THACH HAN RIVER TO PERMIT HIM TO CONTINUE HIS "STRUGGLE FOR PEACE." THE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS DECLINED TO ASSIST HIM. IN ICCS REGION II THREE OBSERVATIONS WERE CONDUCTED, TWO BY THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS TOGETHER, AND THE THIRD BY THE INDONESIANS ALONE.

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART V - MR-2

1. SUMMARY: FIGHTING WAS HEAVIER IN MR-II THIS WEEK. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTION WAS THE FALL OF MANG BUK SUBSECTOR IN KONTUM PROVINCE. THE COMMUNISTS FIRED OVER 1,800 ROUNDS OF MIXED ORDNANCE INTO MANG BUK STARTING AUGUST 17, AND OVERRAN THE SUBSECTOR AUGUST 20, IN BINH DINH THE INCIDENT RATE WAS PARTICULARLY HIGH WITHOUT, HOWEVER, ANY SIGNIFICANT COMMUNIST GAINS. THE RVNAF HAS STOOD ITS GROUND, AND INFLICTED HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE COMMUNISTS. PLEI ME CAMP IN PLEIKU AGAIN CAME UNDER HEAVY COMMUNIST ATTACK THIS WEEK, BUT IS STILL HOLDING. TOTAL INCIDENTS REPORTED IN MR-II FOR THE WEEK WERE 141, UP 20 PERCENT FROM LAST WEEK. OVER 80 PERCENT OCCURRED ALONG THE COAST, THE GREAT MAJORITY (96) IN BINH DINH. BOTH TAC AIR AND VR MISSIONS AGAIN WERE MARKEDLY DOWN AS A RESULT OF BAD WEATHER. RVNAF CASUALTIES ARE REPORTED AS 98 KIA, 287 WIA AND 19 MIA, AS COMPARED TO 108, 304 AND 135 A WEEK AGO. COMMUNIST LOSSES ARE REPORTED AS 417 KIA AND 3 CIA, VERSUS 930 AND 4 LAST WEEK.

2. BINH DINH: THIS WAS BY FAR THE MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE, WITH 96 OUT OF THE 141 TOTAL INCIDENTS FOR MR-II. HOWEVER, ALL THIS ACTIVITY DID NOT LEAD TO ANY SIGNIFICANT COMMUNIST GAINS. THE RVNAF STILL CONTROL THE NHONG PASS IN PHU MY AND HILL 338 IN PHU CAT COMMANDING THE PORT OF DE GI. QL-1 ALSO REMAINS OPEN. ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNISTS APPLIED CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE, PARTICULARLY IN THE NORTHERN COASTAL DISTRICTS OF PHU MY, HOAI NHON AND TAM QUAN, THE RVNAF HAS STOOD ITS GROUND. VNAF AIR STRIKES HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE AND THE RESULT HAS BEEN A COSTLY WEEK FOR THE COMMUNISTS, WHO TOOK CONSIDERABLY MORE CASUALTIES THAN RVNAF.

3. KONTUM: ACTIVITIES REMAINED RELATIVELY LOW UNTIL AUGUST 17, WHEN COMMUNIST ABFS AGAINST MANG BUK WERE STEPPED UP MARKEDLY. THE SUBSECTOR RECEIVED 1,000 ROUNDS OF MIXED MORTAR AND ARTILLERY OVER THE WEEKEND. ANOTHER 800 ROUNDS WERE TAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH COMMUNIST ASSAULTS AUGUST 19. RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST WITH THE SUBSECTOR SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT AUGUST 19, AND MANG BUK REPORTEDLY FELL TO THE COMMUNISTS AT 0150 HOURS AUGUST 20. THE FEW CONTACTS THAT DID OCCUR ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE WERE IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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AREA OF OPERATION OF THE 45TH ARVN REGT NORTHEAST OF KONTUM CITY.

4. PLEIKU: COMMUNIST ACTIVITY WAS DOWN SIGNIFICANTLY THIS WEEK WITH MOST INCIDENTS INVOLVING ATTACKS (BOTH SHELLING AND GROUND PROBES) AGAINST PLEI ME CAMP, WHICH IS STILL HOLDING, AND ROUTE 19 TO BINH DINH. THE WEATHER CONTINUES TO BE BAD AND FEW AIR STRIKES HAVE BEEN FLOWN IN DEFENSE OF PLEI ME. THANH AN

DISTRICT REMAINS QUIET, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS INTELLIGENCE THAT THE COMMUNISTS WOULD ATTACK THANH AN TOWN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ATTACK ON PLEI ME. THE 53RD ARVN REGT IS CONDUCTING OPERATIONS EAST OF PLEI ME. TOWARDS PHU NHON DISTRICT HQ, BUT WITH NO SIGNIFICANT CONTACTS.

5. PHU YEN: COMMUNIST MILITARY ACTIVITY INCREASED APPRECIABLY DURING THE LATTER HALF OF THE PERIOD, BREAKING A TWO WEEK RELATIVE LULL. IT APPEARS NOW THAT THE TWO WEEK PERIOD WAS FOR RESUPPLY AND REGROUPING, SINCE THE NEW ACTIVITY IS SIMILAR TO THE COMMUNIST TACTICS DURING THE JULY 19 - AUGUST 1 OFFENSIVE; NAMELY, ATTACKS ON BRIDGES AND GENERAL HARASSMENT ALONG QL-1, MORTAR ATTACKS ON SUBSECTOR HQ, AND DESTRUCTION OF VILLAGE AND HAMLET OFFICES. IF THIS NEW COMMUNIST ACTIVITY CONTINUES, DONG XUAN AND SONG CAU DISTRICTS MAY AGAIN BE SUBJECT TO ABF TO TIE UP RVNAF. THE COMMUNISTS, RECENTLY CONFRONTED WITH FOOD SHORTAGES, MAY TRY TO USE THIS AS A DIVERSION WHILE THEY INFILTRATE THE MAIN RICE GROWING AREAS OF THE TUY AN, TUY HOA AND HIEN XUONG VALLIES. RVNAF HAVE PERFORMED WELL DURING THIS PERIOD, KEEPING THE COMMUNISTS OFF BALANCE. SECTOR REPORTS 74 COMMUNISTS KIA; ABOUT THREE TIMES HIGHER THAN A WEEK AGO. RVNAF HAD 17 KIA.

6. KHANH HOA: EVEN THOUGH THE LEVEL OF INCIDENTS WAS RELATIVELY LOW, THE COMMUNISTS CONTINUED THEIR PRESSURE ON THE COUNTRYSIDE. THIS GENERAL HARASSMENT HAS CONSISTED OF SAPPER ATTACKS (A VILLAGE HQ IN VINH XUONG DISTRICT WAS DESTROYED AUGUST 13, AND THE GIANG BRIDGE ON QL-1 IN NINH HOA DISTRICT WAS DAMAGED AUGUST 14), ASSASSINATION (A HAMLET CHIEF IN NINH HOA DISTRICT AUGUST 13), AND ABFS.

7. OTHER PROVINCES: NO SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS OR ACTIVITY TO REPORT.

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8. ICCS: OUR PROV REP IN PLEIKU WAS TOLD BY TWO CIVILIAN POLISH INTERPRETERS AT AN INDONESIAN RECEPTION AUGUST 17 THAT THEY BECAME ANGRY AND FRUSTRATED WITH THE LACK OF ICCS ACCOMPLISHMENT. THEY BELIEVE THAT UNLESS THE ICCS STARTS TO FUNCTION SOON IT WILL BE DISBANDED. THE TWO POLES ALSO SAID THEY ARE EMBARRASSED BECAUSE THE INDONESIAN SENIOR OFFICERS SPEAK BETTER RUSSIAN THAN THE POLISH OFFICERS. OUR KONTUM PROV REP REPORTS THAT THE LOCAL POPULACE JOKINGLY REFERS TO THE ICCS AS IM CHO COI SAO, WHICH THEY TRANSLATE TO MEAN "BE QUIET AND WAIT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS".

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART VI- MR-3

1. THE LONG-AWAITED COMMUNIST PUSH IN MR-3 CAME THIS WEEK AS ELEMENTS OF THE 5TH NVA DIV SUPPORTED BY ARTILLERY AND ARMOR SWEEPED DOWN LTL 13 FROM CAMBODIA INTO TAY NINH PROVINCE. THE 3 RF OUTPOSTS SITUATED BETWEEN THE CAMBODIAN BORDER AND THE VAM CO DONG RIVER WITHSTOOD THE HEAVY ONSLAUGHT OF VC SHELLINGS AND GROUND ASSAULTS AND WITH THE CLOSE OF THE REPORTING PERIOD STILL HELD FAST. IN BEN CAT, TWO BNS OF THE 272ND NVA REGT IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE IRON TRIANGLE ATTEMPTED TO OVERRUN PHU THU OUTPOST AND DRIVE DOWN LTL 14 TOWARDS THE ONG CO BRIDGE. HERE TOO THE RF DEFENDING THE PHU THU OUTPOST STOOD FIRM DESPITE HEAVY CASUALTIES AND THE ONG CO BRIDGE, WHILE TEMPORARILY INOPERABLE AS A RESULT OF A SAPPER ATTACK, WAS QUICKLY REPAIRED AND ARVN TRAFFIC MOVED ACROSS IT THROUGHOUT THE END OF THE WEEK. NVA/VC GUNNERS KEPT UP THEIR SHELLING OF BIEN HOA AIRBASE AND THE SURROUNDING AREA THOUGH FEW ROCKETS, IN FACT, REACHED THE AIRFIELD AND ONLY MINOR DAMAGE AND LIGHT CASUALTIES WERE INFLICTED. A SAPPER TEAM PENETRATED THE LIGHTLY GUARDED TPJMC SITE AT CU CHI AND DESTROYED SEVERAL OF THE BUILDINGS SET ASIDE FOR TPJMC USE. SEVERAL NVA REGTS IN MR-3 REMAIN UNCOMMITTED AND MR-3 HQ STILL EXPECTS ADDITIONAL ASSAULTS INTO PHU GIAO DISTRICT AND IN THE VICINITY OF THE 5TH ARVN DIV LAI KHE BASE CAMP.

2. THE NUMBER OF MILITARY INCIDENTS REACHED 366 THIS WEEK, A LEVEL ONLY SURPASSED DURING THE DUC HUE MARCH/APRIL OFFENSIVE. THE MOST SPECTACULAR RISE WAS IN TAY NINH WHICH LED ALL OTHER PROVINCES, REPORTING 111 INCIDENTS COMPARED WITH 9 LAST WEEK. BINH DUONG LISTED 108 (COMPARED WITH LAST WEEK'S 70) FOLLOWED BY BIEN HOA WITH 48 AND BINH LONG WITH 29. MR-3 HQ REPORTED 61 GROUND ATTACKS, 188 ATTACKS BY FIRE, AND 34 COMBINED GROUND ASSAULTS AND ABF'S. THERE WERE 22 MINING INCIDENTS AND 61 OTHER MISCELLANEOUS INCIDENTS INCLUDING 6 SAPPER ATTACKS AND 3 ASSASSINATIONS. NVA/VC ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRINGS WERE UP AGAIN FROM LAST WEEK'S 1,212 ROUNDS TO 2,224 ROUNDS, WHILE RVNAF ARTILLERY ALMOST DOUBLED FROM LAST WEEK'S LEVEL OF 22,000 ROUNDS TO 40,822 ROUNDS FOR THIS REPORTING PERIOD. ACCORDING TO THE 3RD AIR DIVISION, VNAF FLEW 142 FIXED WING SORTIES AND 393

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HELICOPTER GUNSHIP SORTIES CLAIMING 380 NVA/VC KILLED BY AIR. DESPITE ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRING BOTH IN BEN CAT AND TAY NINH, NO AIRCRAFT WERE REPORTED LOST THIS PERIOD.

3. CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES ROSE SHARPLY FROM LAST WEEK'S LEVELS. MR-3 REPORTED GVN LOSSES AS 83 KIA, 502 WIA, AND 53 MIA (COMPARED

WITH LAST WEEK'S 42 KIA, 211 WIA, AND 16 MIA). NVA LOSSES WERE SET AT 531 KIA, 7 CIA, AND 2 RALLIERS (COMPARED WITH 67 KIA, 7 CIA, AND 7 RALLIERS DURING THE PREVIOUS PERIOD).

4. DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF AUGUST 14, ELEMENTS BELIEVED TO BE FROM THE E-6 REGT, 5TH NVA DIV, SUPPORTED BY TANKS AND ARTILLERY ROLLED IN ALONG LTL 13 FROM CAMBODIA AND STRUCK THE RF COMPANY-SIZED BORDER OUTPOST AT PHUOC TAN, THE LUU BUU LAM RF OUTPOST, AND THE BEN SOI POST SITUATED ON THE VAM CO DONG RIVER. THROUGHOUT THE WEEK THESE THREE RVNAF POSITIONS HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO CONSTANT ARTILLERY FIRE AND, IN THE CASE OF PHUOC TAN AND LUU BUU LAM, GROUND ATTACKS. A BN OF THE 25TH ARVN DIV SENT TO RELIEVE THE PHUOC TAN POST REACHED WITHIN A FEW KMS OF THEIR OBJECTIVE BUT HAVE BEEN BOGGED DOWN IN HEAVY GROUND CONTACTS. AT ONE POINT IN THE FIGHTING WHEN THE PHUOC TAN OUTPOST WAS ON THE VERGE OF BEING OVERRUN, THE COMPANY COMMANDER CALLED IN HEAVY ARTILLERY ON HIS OWN POSITION AND REPORTED 368 NVA BODIES AROUND HIS CAMP THE FOLLOWING DAY AT A COST OF 6 RF KILLED AND 27 WOUNDED. BY THE END OF THE WEEK VNAF HELICOPTERS SUCCESSFULLY RE-SUPPLIED PHUOC TAN AND BROUGHT OUT THE WOUNDED WITH A MESSAGE FROM THE COMPANY COMMANDER TO SECTOR TELLING THE ENEMY TO COME ON AND TRY AGAIN. NEAR MIDNIGHT ON AUGUST 18 COMMUNIST GUNNERS FIRED THREE ROUNDS OF 75MM RECOILLESS RIFLE, ONE OF WHICH HIT THE TAY NINH CIVILIAN HOSPITAL AND ANOTHER IMPACTED IN FRONT OF THE COURT-HOUSE, RESULTING IN ONE CIVILIAN KILLED AND 16 WOUNDED. DURING THE EARLY MORNING OF AUGUST 19, LOCAL GUERRILLA FORCES OCCUPIED FOUR HAMLETS IN SOUTHERN PHU KHUONG DISTRICT, TAY NINH, IN THE AREA OF ROUTE 22. MOST OF THE INHABITANTS SUCCESSFULLY FLED THEIR HOMES AND LOCAL RF FORCES ASSISTED BY GUNSHIPS CLEARED THE INVADERS OUT OF THE AREA BY THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 20.

5. IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE DURING THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 14-15, ELEMENTS OF THE 9TH NVA DIV, BELIEVED TO BE PART OF THE 272ND REGT, SUPPORTED BY ARTILLERY AND TANKS ATTEMPTED TO OVERRUN THE RF PHU THU OUTPOST AND ASSAULTED ELEMENTS OF THE 50TH ARVN REGT IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SOUTHERN PART OF THE IRON TRIANGLE. RVNAF FORCES SUCCESSFULLY REPULSED THE ATTACK KILLING 50 NVA AND REPORTEDLY DESTROYING TWO PT-76 TANKS AND CAPTURING ONE PT-76. RVNAF FORCES SUFFERED TWO KIA AND ONE WIA. AN ADDITIONAL NVA TANK WAS REPORTEDLY DESTROYED BY AN ELEMENT OF THE 50TH ARVN REGT ON THE FOLLOWING DAY. AN RF FORCE IN THE SAME AREA ENGAGED THE NVA RESULTING IN 4 RF KILLED AND 32 WOUNDED WITH 5 NVA REPORTED KIA. THE ONG CO PONTOON BRIDGE CONNECTING ROUTE LTL 14 INTO THE IRON TRIANGLE WAS DAMAGED BY COMMUNIST SAPPERS EARLY IN THE WEEK BUT, DESPITE CONTINUED RECOILLESS RIFLE SHELLING OF THE ENGINEERS, WAS REPAIRED WITHIN A FEW DAYS. HEAVY GROUND CONTACTS AND SHELLING CONTINUED THROUGHOUT BEN CAT DURING THE WEEK WITH NO RVNAF POSITIONS LOST.

6. THE BIEN HOA AIRBASE AND VICINITY RECEIVED FOUR ROCKET ATTACKS DURING THE WEEK WITH A TOTAL OF 29 ROCKETS IMPACTING, RESULTING IN ONE KILLED AND 17 WOUNDED (INCLUDING ONE PATIENT KILLED AND 6 PATIENTS WOUNDED AT THE BIEN HOA MENTAL HOSPITAL). BOTH GROUND CONTACTS AND SHELLINGS OCCURRED IN NORTHERN BIEN HOA BETWEEN RF SUPPORTED BY 18TH ARVN DIV ELEMENTS, AND ELEMENTS OF THE 7TH NVA DIV SUPPORTED BY LOCAL FORCES, BUT THIS ACTION HAD SOMEWHAT DIED DOWN BY THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD.

7. ICCS: ACCORDING TO THE INDONESIANS, THE ONLY "OBSERVATIONS" MADE IN ICCS REGION V WERE BY INDODEL. THESE COVERED A COMMUNIST ASSAULT IN THE LAM SON AREA, THE SAPPER ATTACK ON THE CU CHI TPJMC COMPOUND, AND THE SHELLING OF THE TAY NINH PROVINCE HOSPITAL. INDODEL REPORTS THAT IRANDEL IS NOW INSISTING UPON A TWO-PARTY SAFETY GUARANTEE IN ADDITION TO THEIR PREVIOUS REQUIREMENT FOR "ORDERS FROM HEADQUARTERS" BEFORE THEY ARE WILLING TO MAKE ANY "OBSERVATIONS". ACCORDING TO THE INDONESIANS, THE IRANIANS ARE ALSO REFUSING TO MAKE ANY OBSERVATIONS OF AMMUNITION DESTRUCTIONS BECAUSE THIS IS ALLEGEDLY NOT A DUTY WITHIN THEIR MANDATE. ALTHOUGH THE IRANIAN DELEGATION OFFICIALLY OCCUPIES THE CU CHI AND LAM SON SUB-REGIONAL TEAM SITES, BOTH TEAMS, DURING THE LAST FEW WEEKS, REPORTEDLY SPENT MOST OF THEIR EVENINGS IN THE BIEN HOA REGIONAL HQ AND SELDOM VISITED THESE SITES.

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 AID-20 IO-14 DPW-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /165 W

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R 211055Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8024

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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PART VII- MR-4

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

(A) OVERALL ACTIVITY: DELTA MILITARY ACTIVITY INCREASED SHARPLY AS VC/NVA FTRCES LAUNCHED ANOTHER MID-MONTH HIGHPOINT. ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WAS HIGH, THE INTENSITY OF FIGHTING REMAINED GENERALLY BELOW THAT OF LAST MONTH'S HIGHPOINT. VC/NVA UNITS WERE PARTICULARLY AGGRESSIVE IN PHONG DINH PROVINCE, WHERE TWO DISTRICT TOWNS WERE MORTARED. PRESSURE IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE REMAINED STRONG. THERE WERE SEVERAL INCIDENTS ON MAJOR ROADS IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE. CORPS REPORTS 550 VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS (214 LAST WEEK) INCLUDING 98 GROUND ATTACKS (18), 302 ABF'S (123), 131 HARASSMENTS (53), 8 SABOTAGE (5) AND 11 TERRORIST INCIDENTS (14). LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES ALSO INCREASED SHARPLY. GVN LOSSES ARE REPORTED AS 258 KIA (102), 1040 WIA (444), 156 MIA (65), AND 11 CREW-SERVED (2) AND 369 INDIVIDUAL (127) WEAPONS LOST. CORPS CLAIMS 676 VC/NVA KILLED (389), 30 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (30), AND 24 CREW-SERVED (5) AND 201 INDIVIDUAL (143) WEAPONS SEIZED.

B. NORTHERN DELTA: ACTIVITY IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY INCIDENTS ON HIGHWAY 4 AND OTHER ROADS. INCIDENTS ON HIGHWAY 4 INCLUDED: A SNIPING AT A POLICE JEEP IN SAM GIANG (D) AT NOON; SNIPING AT A PRIVATE CAR AT 2030H IN SAM GIANG; 5 ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION TOWERS BLOWN UP ALONG THE HIGHWAY; A CIVILIAN BUS HIT BY A MORTAR ROUND APPARENTLY DIRECTED AT THE LONG DINH TACTICAL CP, KILLING ONE AND INJURING 11. ON OTHER LOC'S, A BRIDGE ON ROUTE 30 NEAR THE KIEN PHONG BORDER WAS DAMAGED 30 PERCENT BY A MINE; A MILITARY TRUCK HIT A MINE ON ROUTE 29 IN CAI LAY (D); ONE SPAN OF THE MY PHUOC TAY BRIDGE ON ROUTE 29 IN CAI LAY (D) WAS COLLAPSED BY EXPLOSIVES; AND ONE SNIPING AND ONE MINING OCCURRED ON ROUTE 20 IN CAI BE (D). IN KIEN PHONG PROVINCE, ACTIVITY INCREASED SHARPLY ALONG KINH I CANAL AND XANG MOI CANAL IN KIEN VAN (D). OUTPOSTS ALONG BOTH CANALS HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO HEAVY SHELLINGS AND/OR GROUND

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ATTACKS THIS WEEK. VC/NVA MAIN FORCE BATTALIONS AND TWO BATTALIONS OF THE Z-15 REGIMENT ARE APPARENTLY RENEWING EFFORTS TO HARASS GVN INSTALLATIONS AROUND BASE AREA 307 AND EXPAND THEIR CONTROL IN THE AREA. ACTIVITY IN KIEN TUONG PROVINCE INCREASED SHARPLY, WIT MOST ACTIVITY STILL CONCENTRATED ALONG THE CUNG CANAL IN KIEN BINH (D). THREE OB'S ALONG THE CANAL THAT WERE ABANDONED OR OVERRUN LAST MONTH (OUT OF NINE) HAVE STILL NOT BEEN RETAKEN.

C. CENTRAL DELTA: IN KIEN HOA PROVINCE, THE ONLY ABF WAS AGAINST A POSITION OF THE 415TH RF BATTALION IN THUAN DIEN (V), PHUOC HUNG (D). OTHER INCIDENTS CONSISTED MOSTLY OF HARASSMENTS OF OB'S AND RF STATIC POSITIONS. IN VINH BINH PROVINCE, THERE WERE NO GROUND ATTACKS AND ONLY SCATTERED SHELLINGS OF GVN OB'S. A VILLAGE COUNCIL MEMBER, A HAMLET CHIEF, AND A POLICEMAN WERE ASSASSINATED. IN VINH LONG PROVINCE, THE VC/NVA FURTHER ESCALATED ACTIVITY IN MINH DUC (D). AN OUTPOST 3 KM NW OF THE DISTRICT TOWN WAS ATTACKED, AND THE TOWN ITSELF WAS MORTARED. THE MORTARING WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AN ABORTIVE GROUND ATTACK, WHICH WAS REPULSED PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF AN APPARENT LACK OF VC COORDINATION. ACTIVITY WAS ALSO HEAVY IN TRA ON (D) WHERE THREE OB'S WERE ABANDONED UNDER PRESSURE IN NGAI TU, BINH NINH, AND TICH THIEN VILLAGES. NGAI TU VILLAGE HQ WAS REPORTED OVERRUN THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 19/20, BUT DETAILS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE. IN SA DEC PROVINCE, TWO GVN SOLDIERS WERE AMBUSHED ON ROUTE 8A IN BINH THANH DONG (V), LAP VO (D) LATE AT NIGHT. THIS IS THE FIRST INCIDENT ON THIS SECTION OF HIGHWAY IN OVER A YEAR. IN PHONG DINH PROVINCE, ACTIVITY WAS HEAVY IN PHUNG HIEP, THUAN TRUNG, AND THUAN NHON DISTRICTS. PHUNG HIEP AND THUAN TRUNG DISTRICT TOWNS WERE MORTARED (3 CIVILIANS KILLED, 18 WOUNDED IN PHUNG HIEP; NO CASUALTIES IN THUAN TRUNG). A MORTARING AND GROUND ATTACK ON

AN OB IN THOI DONG (V), THUAN TRUNG (D) RESULTED IN 11 PF MIA, WHILE AN ATTACK ON AN OB IN THUAN NHON (D) RESULTED IN 22 PF MIA. VC/NVA UNITS HAVE APPARENTLY WITHDRAWN FROM THE VICINITY OF THUAN TRUNG DISTRICT TOWN FOLLOWING INTRODUCTION OF ELEMENTS OF THE 31ST REGIMENT/21ST ARVN DIVISION TO THE SOUTHWEST ON AUGUST 18. ELEMENTS OF THE 15TH REGIMENT/9TH ARVN DIVISION CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN PHUNG HIEP (D).

D. KIEN GIANG PROVINCE: ACTIVITY WAS CONCENTRATED IN HIEU
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LE (D), BUT FIGHTING CONTINUED IN KIEN BINH AND KIEN AN DISTRICTS. SIX VILLAGE HEADQUARTERS AND TWO DISTRICT TOWNS (HIEU LE AND KIEN AN) WERE SHELLED. TWO VILLAGE HEADQUARTERS, BAN TAN DINH AND HOA QUAN IN KIEN BINH, WERE OVERRUN, THE LATTER SINCE RETAKEN. FIGHTING IN KIEN AN IS CENTERED NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE CAI LON RIVER, WHERE GVN FORCES ARE TRYING TO PREVENT THE ROCKETING OF RACH GIA. RVNAF IS ALSO ACTIVE ALONG THE CAN GAO CANAL IN AN ATTEMPT TO RELIEVE PRESSURE ON KIEN AN DISTRICT TOWN.

E. SOUTHERN DELTA: ACTIVITY IN BA XUYEN PROVINCE DECLINED WITH SHELLINGS AND HARASSMENTS THE MOST COMMON INCIDENTS. THUAN HOA WAS THE MOST ACTIVE DISTRICT; THE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS WAS SHELLED FOR THE THIRD TIME IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS, CAUSING LIGHT CASUALTIES. ACTIVITY IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE WAS TWICE THAT OF THE PREVIOUS WEEK, WITH ALMOST HALF THE INCIDENTS OCCURRING IN GIA RAI (D). THE MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT WAS A SHELLING AND GROUND ATTACK AGAINST A PSDF POSITION ON HIGHWAY 4 IN AN TRACH (V), GIA RAI. FIVE PSDF WERE KILLED. ALSO ON HIGHWAY 4, VC INFILTRATED TWO PSDF POSITIONS IN HOA BINH (V), VINH LOI (D). THE SAME TWO POSITIONS WERE ATTACKED ON JULY 22, CAUSING SEVERAL CASUALTIES. IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE, THERE WERE EIGHT GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST SIX OB'S, THREE OF WHICH WERE OVERRUN OR ABANDONED--TWO IN VI THUY (V), DUC LONG (D) AND ONE IN THUAN HUNG (V), LONG MY (D). AN ARVN SOLDIER WAS KILLED ON ROUTE 31 BETWEEN HOA LUU AND VI THANH (V) BY SEVERAL VC DRESSED IN PF UNIFORMS. IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE, THE VC/NVA INCREASED ACTIVITY NEAR THE HAI YEN/SONG ONG DOC DISTRICT BORDER AND TARGETED OUTLYING OB'S ALONG INFILTRATION ROUTE 1A. THERE IS SOME REPORTED MOVEMENT OF VC/NVA UNITS: THE 512 SAPPER BATTALION IS NOW NEAR THE TREM TREM RIVER, WHILE THE D2 BATTALION/Z9 REGIMENT IS REPORTEDLY IN TAN LOC (V), QUAN LONG (D). GVN COMMANDS IN THE PROVINCE HAVE IMPROVED COORDINATION, WITH THE 32ND REGIMENT/21ST ARVN DIVISION NOW UNDER SECTOR OPCON AND THE VNN 74TH RIVER ASSAULT GROUP PROVIDING SECURITY FOR LOC'S, OB'S, AND AN ARTILLERY POSITION IN SONG ONG DOC (D).

2. VC/NVA ACTIVITIES: ACCORDING TO SECTOR SOURCES IN BAC LIEU, THE VC THERE HAVE DECIDED TO EMPHASIZE HARASSMENT/PROPAGANDA TACTICS TO DEMORALIZE GVN TROOPS IN OB'S WHILE DEEMPHASIZING

HEAVY SHELLINGS AND GROUND ATTACKS. MILITARY CADRE HAVE BEEN
INSTRUCTED TO USE DEMORALIZING TACTICS TO RESTRICT GVN TROOP
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MOVEMENTS AROUND THEIR OB'S. SECTOR S-2 BELIEVES THE TACTIC
HAS BEEN PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL, AS MANY UNITS NOW MISTAKENLY
BELIEVE THERE ARE LARGE VC/NVA CONCENTRATIONS OUTSIDE THEIR OB'S
AND ARE RELUCTANT TO PATROL..
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